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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0852  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2843  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2228  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (GEHRENBECK)

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: KYRGYZ PRESIDENT UNDERGOES HIP SURGERY

REF: BISHKEK 221

Classified By: Amb. Marie L. Yovanovitch, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) On March 13, presidential advisor Valentin Bogatryov confirmed to the Ambassador that Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev traveled to Weisbaden, Germany on March 3 to undergo hip surgery. He said that surgeons operated on one of Bakiyev's hips on March 4, and that the second hip, also requiring the same minor operation, would be corrected later this year. Bogatryov said that doctors prescribed ten days of bed rest for Bakiyev who was recuperating well. According to Bogatryov, the President is expected back on March 16.

12. (C) Bogatryov said that, over the New Year holiday, Bakiyev experienced horrendous back pains, at times preventing him from sitting or lying down. Bogatryov said that the president traveled to Germany in February for medical examinations, where his doctors detected no issues with his spine but discovered problems with his hip joints. Bogatryov believed that the president's hip joints were not firmly in place, a medical condition "common among Kyrgyz and usually corrected at an early age."

13. (C) Prior to his departure, Bakiyev asked for Bogatryov's advice in handling the situation but apparently chose not to take it. Bogatryov felt that the trip was perfectly acceptable and encouraged the president to inform the public that he was going on medical leave to Germany. Bakiyev's move to keep the trip under wraps was thwarted by former MP Azimbek Beknazarov who speculated about Bakiyev's medical treatment and who in the government would act in his place in a crisis. In response, the president's unprofessional press office reported that Bakiyev left March 3 on a "short term vacation."

YOVANOVITCH